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January 23, 2006

Contact: Kevin Hardy

Post-Katrina/Rita Research and Educational Leadership Forum Announced

The Board of Regents will host the first in a series of Post-Katrina/Rita research and educational leadership forums April 3-4, 2006, to focus on the recovery and rebuilding of New Orleans and the Louisiana coast. The April event in New Orleans, entitled “**Science Recovery and Discovery: The Role of Higher Education in Securing a Sustainable Future,**” will host national experts, who will interact with Louisiana university faculty, staff and students, as well as community and private sector representatives, to help map the role of the state’s research and education communities in Louisiana’s immediate and long-term recovery efforts.

The planned forums, also sponsored in part by Louisiana EPSCoR (Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research), complement the Regents’ Post-Katrina Support Fund Initiative, which dedicates \$5 million per year for five years. The initiative is expected to attract additional resources from other sectors to help catalyze and sustain Post-Katrina research and educational programs.

“The impetus for the event has been the recognition that Louisiana’s education and research communities are poised to demonstrate systematic, coherent and high-profile leadership in addressing the impact of the storms,” said Commissioner of Higher Education Joseph Savoie.

The goals the Regents have articulated for the forums are: 1) to provide continuing advice regarding Louisiana’s pace-setting scientific research relevant to the State’s economic recovery and advancement; 2) to help maintain and elevate the trajectory of research and education in the State; and 3) to extend hope and opportunity to current and future Louisiana faculty and students.

“The 2006 forum, combined with others to follow, will have two interdependent thrusts: recovery and advancement of the sciences and humanities in Louisiana, and fostering ideas in the sciences and humanities which are relevant to recovery and advancement,” said Kerry Davidson, Board of Regents Deputy Commissioner for Sponsored Programs, who is coordinating forum preparations for the Regents.

“This forum will highlight ways to integrate science and engineering ideas related to rebuilding the environmental, social, health and business landscapes of New Orleans and the Louisiana coast,” said Robert Twilley, LSU professor in oceanography and coastal science, who chairs the Forum Planning Committee.

A final agenda for the April 3-4 Forum will be forthcoming. Members of the 2006 Forum

(More)

Leadership Forum Announced

ADD ONE

Planning Committee include the following:

Dr. Robert Twilley, Chair, Louisiana State University and A&M College (Baton Rouge)
Dr. John Clements, Co-Chair, Tulane University Health Sciences Center
Dr. Shirley Laska, Co-Chair, University of New Orleans
Dr. JoDale Ales, Louisiana Community and Technical College System
Dr. Rex Caffey, Louisiana State University Agricultural Center
Dr. Patrick Carriere, Southern University and A&M College (Baton Rouge)
Dr. Gene D'Amour, Xavier University of Louisiana
Dr. Maureen Lichtveld, Tulane University Health Sciences Center
Dr. Joseph Moerschbaeher, Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center
Dr. Ray Sterling, Louisiana Tech University
Dr. Robert Thomas, Loyola University New Orleans
Dr. Mark Zappi, University of Louisiana at Lafayette
Ms. Connie Fabre, Greater Baton Rouge Industry Alliance, Inc.
Dr. Kerry Davidson, Louisiana Board of Regents
Dr. Michael Khonsari, Louisiana Board of Regents and EPSCoR Project Director

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